

ELABORATIONS

News and Issues for Washington's Clinical Laboratories

Volume XI Issue 4

April 2006

MTS License Renewal Changes

by Susan Walker, DOH/LQA

Current Medical Test Site (MTS) licenses expire on October 31, 2006. License renewal application packets will be mailed out this July.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has requested that the office of Laboratory Quality Assurance (LQA) change the MTS licensing cycle to correspond with the Washington State biennial budget. This would change the licensing cycle so that the MTS licenses would expire on June 30 of odd-numbered years rather than on October 31 of even-numbered years.

What does this mean for MTS license renewal this year? In order to achieve the goal of matching the MTS licensing cycle to the state biennium, current MTS licenses will be renewed for an 8-month period so that they will expire on June 30, 2007. The fees will be prorated accordingly.

In May of 2007, fee letters will be mailed to MTS license holders that will renew the licenses for the usual 2-year period (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2009).

If you have any questions, please contact: Susan Walker, LQA Program Manager, at (206)418-5418 or by e-mail at susan.walker@doh.wa.gov. A series of regional meetings to discuss the proposed WAC change will be held around the state in May and June. See the schedule on page 3.

MTS WAC Changes: In order to implement this change, the MTS Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-338 must be revised. LQA has initiated the process to revise the MTS WAC. On March 23, 2006, a pre-proposal statement of inquiry, CR-101, was filed with the Office of the Code Reviser and is listed in the State Register, Issue 06-08-014 published on April 19, 2006. A public hearing has been scheduled on May 23 from 10:30-

11:30 am in Room 139, Point Plaza East, 310 Isreal Road SE, Tumwater. The proposed changes to the MTS WAC are found below.

Proposed changes to the MTS WAC:

WAC 246-338-022 Initial Application For Medical Test Site License

Issuing an Initial License (2)

- Revised language: (b) License expiration dates will be based on a two-year licensure cycle, expiring ~~on October 31st of even-numbered years~~ on June 30th of odd-numbered years. The license period for an initial license begins the day of the month that payment is received and expires on ~~October 31st of the current or next even-numbered year~~ June 30th of odd-numbered years.
- Added language: (c) For licenses issued for a period of less than two years, the license fee will be prorated for the remainder of the two-year cycle under WAC 246-338-990.
- Revised the numbering of the rest of this section.

continued on page 3

Inside This Issue

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 2-3 | Arbovirus (West Nile & St. Louis Encephalitis) |
| 3 | MTS License Renewal Changes, cont'd |
| 4 | MTS License Renewal/Calendar of Events |

Practice Guidelines

The following practice guidelines have been developed by the Clinical Laboratory Advisory Council. They can be accessed at the following website:
www.doh.wa.gov/lqa.htm

Anemia	Lipid Screening
ANA	PAP Smear
Bioterrorism Event Mgmt	Point-of-Care Testing
Bleeding Disorders	PSA
Chlamydia	Rash Illness
Diabetes	Red Cell Transfusion
Group A Strep Pharyngitis	Renal Disease
Group B Streptococcus	STD
Hepatitis	Thyroid
HIV	Tuberculosis
Infectious Diarrhea	Urinalysis
Intestinal Parasites	Wellness

Arbovirus (West Nile and St. Louis Encephalitis): Specimen Collection, Shipping, and Receiving Requirements

by Misty M. Lang, DOH/PHL

It is important that specimens sent to the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Public Health Laboratories (WSPHL) meet established requirements to ensure that appropriate and timely testing can be provided. The specific requirements for shipping specimens to the WSPHL for arbovirus (West Nile Virus and St. Louis Encephalitis) testing have been designed to meet both epidemiological as well as laboratory needs.

It is essential that submitters first notify their local county health jurisdiction (LHJ) when a suspected arbovirus case arises (to find a phone number for your LHJ, please visit: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/LHJMap/LHJMap.htm>). The LHJ will determine if a patient needs West Nile (WN) and/or St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) testing and contact the DOH epidemiologist to get approval to send the specimen. If the DOH denies the request, commercial testing may be available for a fee and can be discussed with the LHJ.

Case review by DOH Epidemiology is required before specimen submission: If a specimen arrives prior to DOH Epidemiology approval, testing will be delayed pending their approval. If approval is denied, the

ELABORATIONS is a free monthly publication of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Public Health Laboratories (PHL) and Office of Laboratory Quality Assurance (LQA).

Secretary, DOH: Mary Selecky
Health Officer: Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH
Director, PHL: Romesh Gautam, PhD
Program Manager, LQA: Susan Walker
Editor: Leonard Kargacin (206) 418-5416
Circulation: Leonard Kargacin (206) 418-5416

Comments, letters to the editor, information for publication, and requests for subscription can be directed to:

ELABORATIONS
Washington State Public Health Labs
1610 NE 150th Street
Shoreline, WA 98155

e-mail address: leonard.kargacin@doh.wa.gov

NOTE: Letters to the editor may be published unless specified otherwise by the author.

Website addresses:

DOH home page: <http://www.doh.wa.gov>
LQA home page: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/lqa.htm>
PHL home page:
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/PHL/default.htm>

specimen can be returned to the submitter at the submitter's expense.

A complete *Virus Examination Laboratory* form must be sent with the specimen. This form is available from the WSPHL mailroom at (206) 418-5579 or from the WSPHL website: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/PHL/default.htm>.

Required information for lab forms:

- Date of onset of symptoms*
 - Date of specimen collection*
 - Vaccination history
Yellow fever vaccine may cross-react
 - Travel history (useful for epidemiology)
 - Evidence of clinical encephalitis
- *Needed for interpretation of results; testing will be delayed if information is missing.

Patient identification: Either the patient name or patient identifier **must be** written on the specimen tube. Testing is limited to Washington state residents. Please provide the patient's city and state. If the city/state is not provided, testing may be delayed or cancelled. The following information is also requested: patient date of birth (DOB), patient gender (male/female), and ordering physician's name or ID number.

Symptoms: Please provide clinical findings, if possible.

Collection timing: Serum specimens should be collected **8 or more days** after the onset of symptoms to reduce the number of redraws and additional testing. CSF can be collected 3 or more days post onset. This is in agreement with CDC's requirements.

It is WSPHL general policy for IgM EIA testing to ask for a redraw when the initial serum is IgM negative, if drawn early (prior to 8 days after onset of symptoms), or to verify the IgM result.

Include month, day, and year: It is a CLIA requirement that we have a collection date. **Specimens without a collection date will not be tested until a collection date is received.** Time collected is optional.

Description of the Specimen: Indicate whether the specimen is serum or cerebral spinal fluid (CSF). Collect blood in a red top or red-gray top tube. If possible, send **only the serum.** Whole or heparinized blood will not be

continued on page 3

Arbovirus, continued from page 2

accepted for serology testing. The minimum volume of serum or CSF required for testing is 2.0mL. CSF specimens are routinely tested undiluted and, therefore, larger amounts are required.

Shipping requirements: Specimens should be sent cold and as Diagnostic Specimens (will change to “Biological Substance Category B” in 2007 per updated shipping regulations). The package should be shipped for overnight arrival and must meet USPS regulations if shipped Priority Mail, or USDOT regulations if shipped by ground. If a private courier is used and the vehicle is dedicated to package delivery, packaging is exempt from USDOT regulations. Packages shipped by air must meet IATA regulations.

Rejection of specimens: Specimens will be rejected for the following reasons:

- No prior approval by State Epidemiology
- No name or identifier on specimen tube, or no match with laboratory form
- Leaking specimen tube
- Markedly hemolyzed or lipemic serum, or CSF that is not colorless
- Plasma
- Insufficient volume
- Out-of-state residents
- Missing onset date
- Missing collection date

Upon receipt, the specimens are date/time stamped and logged into the Viral Serology database. Specimens are tested and reported within the designated turn-around time of 3-7 days. Results are reported to the State Epidemiology, the LHJ, and the submitter.

NOTE: The PHL Directory of Services is now online at the Washington State Department of Health Public Health Laboratories website: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/PHL/default.htm>.

MTS License Renewal Changes, continued from page 1

WAC 246-338-024 License Renewal/Reapplication Process

- Revised language: (2) A license is issued for a period of two years. License expiration dates are based on a two-year cycle, expiring on ~~October 31st of even-numbered years~~ June 30th of odd-numbered years.
- Added language: (3) For licenses issued for a period of less than two years, the license fee shall be prorated for the remainder of the two-year cycle under WAC 246-338-990.
- Revised the numbering of the rest of this section.

WAC 246-338-990 Fees

- Added language: (c) Charge prorated fees for the remainder of the biennial period when the owner or applicant applies for an initial license during a biennium under 246-338-022 (2)(c);
- Added language: (d) Charge prorated fees for licenses issued for less than a two-year period under 246-338-024 (3); and
- Revised the numbering of the rest of this section.

Meetings: A series of regional meetings to discuss the proposed WAC changes and other topics of interest to the laboratory community will be held around the state in May and June. The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the following locations:

May 18: Deaconess Health & Education Center
901 W 5th Ave, Room 267
Spokane, WA 99201

May 19: Moxee Fire Station
2003 Beaudry Road
Yakima, WA 98901

June 1: Public Health Laboratories
1610 NE 150th Street
Shoreline, WA 98155

June 20: Southwest Washington Medical Center
400 NE Mother Joseph Place
Vancouver, WA 98668

MTS License Renewal

Current Medical Test Site (MTS) licenses expire on October 31, 2006. License renewal application packets will be mailed out this July.

Licenses will be renewed for an 8-month period in order to move the MTS licensing cycle to correspond with the state biennial budget cycle.

To find out how this change will affect you, see the article beginning on page 1 of this issue of *Elaborations*.

Calendar of Events

PHL Training Classes:

(<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphl/phl/training/train.htm>)

Basic Course in Urine Sediments

May 10 OR 11 Shoreline

WSSCLS/NWSSAMT Spring Meeting

April 20-22, 2006 Lynnwood

Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium

October 18-21, 2006 Portland

13th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference

November 2006 Seattle

Contact information for the events listed above can be found on page 2. The Calendar of Events is a list of upcoming conferences, deadlines, and other dates of interest to the clinical laboratory community. If you have events that you would like to have included, please mail them to *ELABORATIONS* at the address on page 2. Information must be received at least one month before the scheduled event. The editor reserves the right to make final decisions on inclusion.